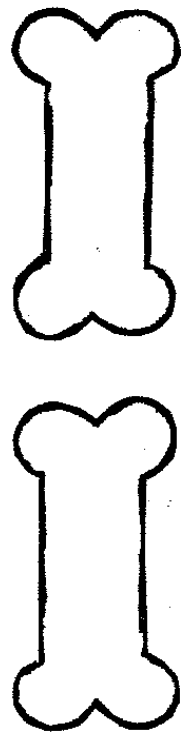
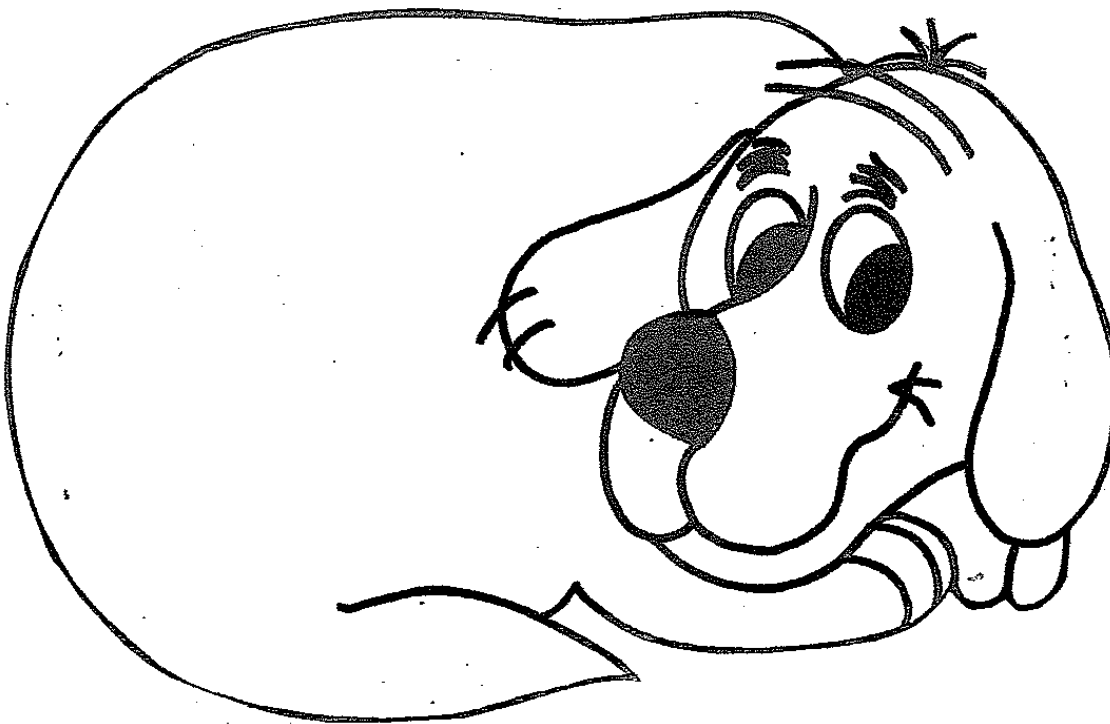


A Clifford and Friends Kindergarten Learning Community

There are some wonderful websites that provide great ideas for using Clifford books and Clifford's character qualities of kindness and cooperation in the classroom. You can find them very easily through a Google search. Scholastic also has a resource for Pre-K - 1 teachers entitled, *Teaching With Favorite Clifford Books*, by Kathleen M. Hollenbeck. The patterns at the bottom of the page were adapted from this book.

My main goal for the year is to establish a 180 day theme of friendship, community and imagination in my classroom. I have taken the Clifford ideas that I have used in the past a step further. Instead of just one unit on Clifford, I welcomed my children to Birdwell Island for the whole year. (In fact, we imagined that Chicka Chicka Boom Boom trees could grow there, so they do.) After reading about *Clifford's Manners* and how Clifford and his friends get along, we made up our own classroom friendship rules.

Norman Bridwell has written enough Clifford books to last all year long, but he never said that Clifford had to be the color red. I have chosen to use the Clifford and bone patterns below to create a center time atmosphere around the room. Clifford changes his color in each center and becomes a visual reminder of friendship, cooperation, imagination and creative thinking. The bones on my center signs indicate how many children can be in each center. Clothespins with the children's names on them can also be clipped, via a pocket chart, to correspond with the bones. That way the children know when the center is full.



Pam Knuutila, Gaston County Schools, E-mail: pknuutila@gaston.k12.nc.us
H. H. Beam Elementary (Title 1), 200 Davis Park Road, Gastonia, NC 28052